

house-drains in the entire metropolis were in the same proportion, then the whole of the present soil or refuse water from the houses might be carried away in one pipe of 3 feet in diameter, and a double quantity in one 4-foot pipe."

The advantages of back drainage are strongly urged, and the necessity of preventing accumulations is properly insisted on instead of making ineffectual endeavours to withdraw from sewers the foul gases generated by such accumulations. "It is confidently predicted that when the common syphon or water-traps are relieved from the pressure of such gases as are now evolved from stagnant fluid and semi-fluid matter, they will be found effectual in arresting any odours which may arise from the reduced surface of running sewer water."

We will take this opportunity to inquire what has become of the plans sent in long ago in reply to advertisement by the Commissioners of Sewers, for the drainage of London? whether any of the competitors have been paid, not to say rewarded? and what the Commissioners are now about? The sewers of London are at this moment full of danger; the hot weather is approaching; and if we remain free from a pestilence, it will not be for want of facilities for its approach.*

THE NEW ALMS-HOUSE ON DEER ISLAND, IN BOSTON HARBOUR.

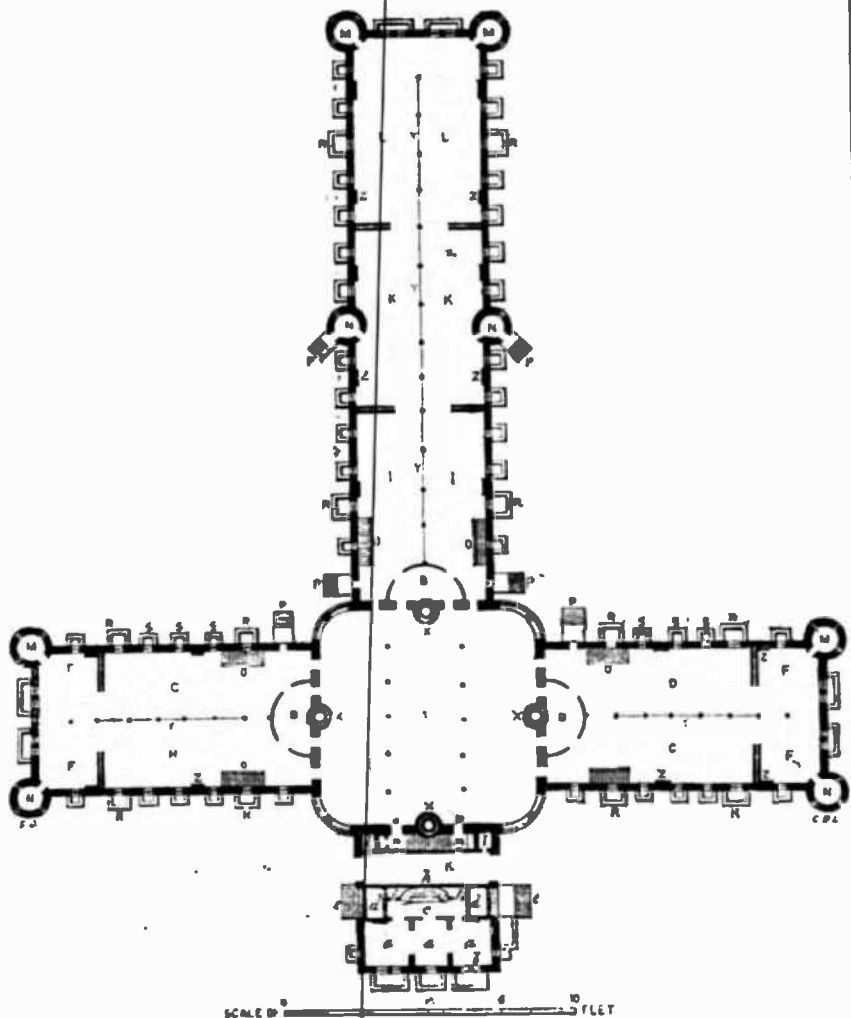
THE New Alms House erecting on Deer Island, in Boston Harbour, United States, was designed by Messrs. Louis Dwight and Gridley J. F. Bryant. This building does not represent the workhouses of America. Each county in the state of Massachusetts has its poorhouses or workhouses, the large cities or towns, theirs. But this building now erecting is the property of the city of Boston, and is intended as a place for the English, Irish, French, Germans, &c., who go there by thousands during the warm months: sick, poor, and diseased.

The size of the building is such, as to allow four feet by twelve, on the floor, and twelve feet in height, to each of twelve hundred inmates; i. e. about six hundred cubic feet of space to each person.

The form and structure is that of a "Latin Cross," having its four wings radiating at right angles from a "central building." The central building is four stories high: the lower story (on a uniform level with the cellars or work-rooms of the north, east, and west wings) contains the bathing-rooms, cleansing-rooms, furnace, and fuel-rooms; the two next stories contain the general guard-room, to be used also as a work-room; the next story is the chapel; and the upper story is the hospital. The south wing is four stories high; the lower one contains the family kitchens and entry of the superintendent's family; the second is appropriated for the family parlours of the superintendent, and a room for the use of the directors, together with the entrances and staircases, and the opening or carriage way, for receiving the paupers. The staircases communicating with the guard-room, and with the cleaning-rooms in the lower story of the central building, are also located in this story. The two remaining stories will be used for the family sleeping-rooms, superintendent's office, officers' rooms, and bathing-rooms,—together with the entries, passages, closets, and staircases. Each of the north, east, and west wings is three stories high, with basements and attics over the whole surface of each wing. The basements are for work-rooms. The remaining stories, including the attics, contain the wards, hospitals, and day-rooms for the inmates, together with the sleeping and inspection rooms for the nurses and attendants.

* Some unsightly works are now going on in Palace Yard, near Westminster Abbey, which have already provoked discussion in the House of Commons. A steam engine is being erected there to drain the land, as we understand Lord Kington, while the new sewer for Westminster is being put in.—The correspondence between Mr. Barry and Mr. H. A. Austin relative to the sewer under the new House of Parliament, which we reviewed at the time, has been called for in Parliament.

PLAN OF GROUND FLOOR OF NEW ALMS-HOUSE, BOSTON.



- References:—
- A Great kitchen
 - B Inspectors' rooms
 - C Eating room for working and healthy men
 - D Eating room for old and infirm men
 - F Exercising or day rooms
 - G Eating room for lying-in-women
 - H Eating room for healthy and working women
 - I Bakery and dry store room
 - K Bathing and clothes room
 - L Ironing and drying room
 - M Water-closets
 - N Stairways
 - O Stairways
 - P Steps and entrances to house
 - R Cellar doorway curbs
 - S Cellar window curbs
 - X Ventilating and hot-air flues

- Y Screen partition 7-feet high
- a Superintendent's family parlours
- b Directors' room
- c Superintendent's entry
- d Superintendent's vestibules
- e Entrances to keeper's house
- f Closets
- A Stairway
- i Outside entrance to basement
- k Archway entrance
- l Coal drops
- m Entrance to great kitchen and stairs to basement
- n Stairs to superintendent's office
- o Entrance to great kitchen
- p Water-closet
- s Open fire-places once in 50 feet in every story

There are eight circular towers attached to the exterior walls of the north, east, and west wings; they contain the water-closets requisite for the inmates of the building; two of them contain staircases. The water-closets are placed on the level of every story, and entered immediately from the floors thereof, and are disconnected from the main building by a column of air passing through upright openings, in the exterior walls of the towers, opposite to each other, and placed near the walls of the building.

The dimensions of the building are as follows, in round numbers:—The centre building is 75 feet square and 75 feet high, each perpendicular corner being subtended by the section of a circle. The superintendent's house, if the building faces the south, makes the south side of the centre building, except the circular corners, and is thrown out by these corners 50 feet by 50 on the ground, and 50 high; so that it stands almost as much separated from the main building as if it were entirely disconnected with it, and is still near enough for the convenience of the superintendent.

The north wing, intended particularly for women, is 100 feet by 50, and 50 feet high, i. e. twice as large as the superintendent's house. The south wing, intended particularly for men, is 100 feet by 50, and 50 feet high, the same dimensions as the north wing; and both these wings are separated from the superintendent's house, and thrown out from the centre building like the superintendent's house, by the semi-circular corners, for purposes of better supervision and ventilation. The east wing, intended for the accommodation of different classes, and for different purposes, in the different stories, is 200 feet by 50, and 50 feet high, i. e. twice the dimensions of the north and south wings, and four times the dimensions of the superintendent's house. The north, east, and west wings have three stories, each 12 feet high, above the basement, and beneath the attic. The attic is 9½ feet high, and the basement 8½ feet high. The south wing is four finished stories high, and the floors of these stories are uniform with those of the three other wings. The circular towers attached to the exterior wall